

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing point-to-multipoint services in a mobile communication network, said method comprising:

receiving (S10) from a mobile station a request for accessing a point-to-multipoint service, said request comprising a subscriber identifier of the subscriber placing the request and a point-to-multipoint service identifier of the point-to-multipoint service for which access is being requested,

storing (S11) a subscriber identification for the subscriber placing the request in association with a point-to-multipoint service identification for the point-to-multipoint service for which access is being requested,

performing (S12) an access enabling procedure, and

providing (S13) accounting information to an accounting entity (36, 87) of said mobile communication network in which accounting for the point-to-multipoint service is performed considering a number of subscribers, who placed the request for accessing the point-to-multipoint service and a provider of the point-to-multipoint service, said accounting information identifying the subscriber who placed the request together with the point-to-multipoint service for which access was requested.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein in addition to identifying a point-to-multipoint service, said accounting information indicates a number of subscribers, said indicated number corresponding to all or a predetermined part of the subscribers currently stored in association with said point-to-multipoint service.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said accounting depends on the indicated number of subscribers.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said accounting comprises billing and a billing tariff decreases with an increasing indicated number of subscribers.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said accounting comprises payment and a payment tariff increases with an increasing indicated number of subscribers.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~one of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein said accounting is also performed on the basis of the amount of data transported.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said accounting is performed differently for data transported from the mobile communication network to the mobile station than for data transported from the mobile station to the mobile communication network.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein billing is only performed for data transported ~~in one of the directions of~~ from the mobile communication network to the mobile station or performed for data transported and from the mobile station to the mobile communication network.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims~~, wherein after performing said access enabling procedure, waiting ~~it is waited~~ ~~(S15, S16)~~ for the receipt of a service access confirmation, and said accounting information is only provided to said accounting entity if said service access confirmation is received.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the subscriber identifications and associated point-to-multipoint service identifications are stored in a centralized point-to-multipoint service data base ~~(86)~~ for said mobile communication network.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~of one of the preceding claims~~, wherein a classification of point-to-multipoint services into categories is provided, said accounting information identifying ~~identifies~~ the category of the point-to-multipoint service, and said accounting of the point-to-multipoint service is performed depending on the identified category.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~of one of the preceding claims~~, ~~furthermore~~ further comprising:
storing one or more counter values in association with a stored subscriber identification and/or point-to-multipoint service identification.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, ~~furthermore~~ further comprising:
providing said one or more counter values as a part of said accounting information.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~12~~ or 13, wherein said one or more counter values comprise one or more of the following:
a time counter value associated with each stored subscriber identification, indicating a time period that has passed since receiving a request from said subscriber,
a time counter value associated with each stored point-to-multipoint service identification, indicating a time period that has passed since receiving a first request identifying said point-to-multipoint service,
an event counter value associated with each stored subscriber identification, indicating a number of predetermined events that have occurred since receiving a request from said subscriber, and
an event counter value associated with each stored point-to-multipoint service identification, indicating a number of predetermined events that have occurred since receiving a first request identifying said point-to-multipoint service.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims~~, wherein said access enabling procedure comprises:
sending an enable signal to a service provision control entity.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims~~, wherein said access enabling procedure comprises:
sending one or more decryption keys to the mobile station from which the request for accessing a point-to-multipoint service was sent.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein an individual decryption key is provided in dependence on one or more of:
each stored subscriber identification,
each stored point-to-multipoint service identification, and
each pair of a subscriber identification and point-to-multipoint service identification stored in association.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 ~~or 17~~, wherein said one or more decryption keys are generated dynamically in response to receiving said request for accessing a point-to-multipoint service.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, within a computer readable medium, ~~arranged to carry out the method of one of claims 1 to 18 when loaded into and executed in a data processing device communicatively connected to said mobile communication network,~~ for managing point-to-multipoint services in a mobile communication network, the computer program product comprising:
instructions for receiving from a mobile station a request for accessing a point-to-multipoint service, said request comprising a subscriber identifier of the subscriber placing the request and a point-to-multipoint service identifier of the point-to-multipoint service for which access is being requested,

instructions for storing a subscriber identification for the subscriber placing the request in association with a point-to-multipoint service identification for the point-to-multipoint service for which access is being requested,

instructions for performing an access enabling procedure, and
instructions for providing accounting information to an accounting entity of said mobile communication network in which accounting for the point-to-multipoint service is performed considering a number of subscribers, who placed the request for accessing the point-to-multipoint service and a provider of the point-to-multipoint service, said accounting information identifying the subscriber who placed the request together with the point-to-multipoint service for which access was requested..

20. (Currently Amended) An accounting entity of a mobile communication network, said accounting entity comprising:

a receiver for receiving accounting information, said accounting information identifying a subscriber placing ~~who placed~~ a request for a point-to-multipoint service, and identifying a point-to-multipoint service for which access was requested

a processor for performing accounting for the point-to-multipoint service identified in the accounting information considering a number of subscribers, who placed the request for accessing the point-to-multipoint service and a provider of the point-to-multipoint service, wherein said processor is arranged such that if said accounting information indicates the number of subscribers corresponding to all or a predetermined part of the subscribers currently stored by a point-to-multipoint service data base entity in association with said point-to-multipoint service, said accounting depends on the indicated number of subscribers.

21. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The accounting entity according to claim 20 wherein said point-to-multipoint service data base entity comprises: ~~comprising~~:

a receiver for receiving from a mobile station a request for accessing a point-to-multipoint service, said request comprising a subscriber identifier of the subscriber placing the request and a point-to-multipoint service identifier of the point-to-multipoint service for which access is being requested,

a memory for storing a subscriber identification for the subscriber placing the request in association with a point-to-multipoint service identification for the point-to-multipoint service for which access is being requested,

a processor for providing accounting information to an accounting entity of said mobile communication network, said accounting information identifying the subscriber placing ~~who placed~~ the request, together with the point-to-multipoint service for which access was requested.